

Your local anarchist



reading list:

John Zerzan – Elements of Refusal

John Zerzan – Future Primitive

Marshall Sahlins – Stone Age Economics

uncivilized – uncivilizedriseup.net

A short introduction to anarcho primitivism



Some stuff about me

I am an anarchist from a small town, and I see a lot of the destruction that agriculture is doing to our society. I have almost always been an anarchist, but recently I have been reading a lot about anarcho primitivism. I wanted to explain anarcho primitivism to more people because it is often misunderstood.

I ask that you read this zine with an open mind. It is not meant to convince you of these ideas. It is simply meant to educate people about this topic, and if you find it interesting and want to learn more, I have included a small reading list on the back that helped me get started.

This zine is meant for everybody. I have tried to write it in a way that even people who know nothing about anarchism can still get a basic understanding of the ideas discussed here.

This is also the first zine I have ever made, so expect there to be mistakes. I am just typing away and trying to make it look nice in the end.

If you want to print this zine for yourself, I will upload it to the Internet Archive under the name *A Short Introduction to Anarcho Primitivism*.



I don't think anarcho primitivists have a perfect answer to every question. But neither does industrial civilization. The difference is that anarcho primitivists are willing to question whether the systems we take for granted are actually improving our lives. Thank you for reading

What Would an Anarcho Primitivist Society Look Like?

An anarcho primitivist society would be based on teamwork rather than competition. Every person would contribute to the community according to their abilities, and everyone would depend on one another for survival.

Without large institutions governments or corporations, there would be no room for permanent hierarchies. Different people would perform different tasks depending on their skills and interests. Some might hunt, others gather food, make clothing, build shelters, or care for children.

The goal would not be wealth or economic growth, but a balanced relationship between people and the natural world.

Common Critiques of Anarcho Primitivism

"Isn't this just going back to the Stone Age?"

This is the critique i hear most often anarcho primitivism. The short answer is yes, anarcho primitivists advocate for a way of life that is closer to how humans lived before civilization. However, this criticism often assumes that the Stone Age was a miserable period of human history.

Anarcho primitivists argue that many huntergatherers societies enjoyed more free time, stronger bonds, and healthier relationships with nature than people living under industrial civilization.

"Wouldn't millions of people die?"

Industrial society has created an unsustainable way of life. Doing nothing would just mean ignoring the issue until no one can live on this planet anymore.

"What About medicine?"

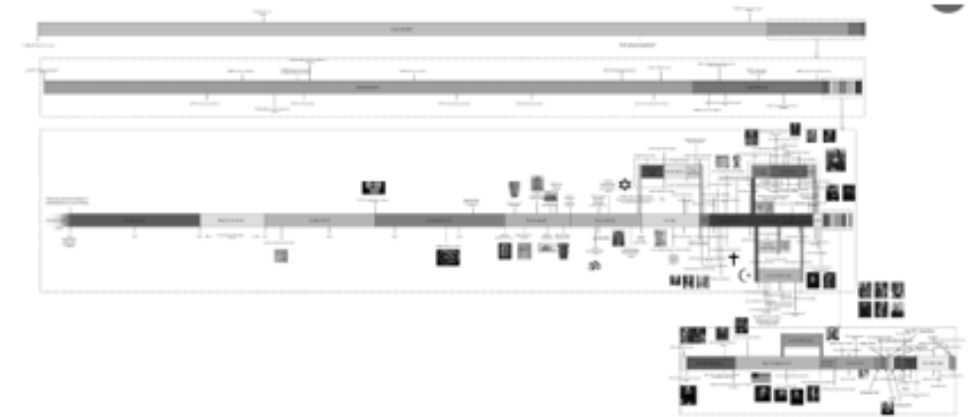
A lot of modern medicine exists only because of how much we have polluted the Earth and because of what we are putting into our bodies. Many diseases didn't exist before civilization. Before modern medicine, huntergatherers knew a lot of plants that could help treat sicknesses.

What Is Anarcho Primitivism?

Anarcho primitivists argues that capitalism is harmful, but they go further than most other anarchists. They believe that the roots of all modern problems can be found not just in capitalism, but in civilization itself.

One quote that has always stuck with me goes something like this:

"We existed for millions of years. Agriculture appeared around 10,000 years ago. A hundred years from now we may all be dead. The end."



Whether you agree with anarcho primitivism or not, this quote tells an important point. For most of human history people lived as huntergatherers. Civilization, cities, industry, and mass agriculture are all very recent developments. Anarcho primitivists ask a simple question: if these systems are making people unhappy and destroying the natural world, why should we assume they are progress?

From an anarcho primitivist perspective, civilization creates hierarchy, domination, and alienation. Humans become separated from nature, from their communities, and from the skills that once allowed them to live independently.



Industrialization

Industrialization is destroying our world faster than anything else, and it is impossible to stop int his care as long as Even if a large cars and websites that of the world, private jets, sailing yachts, and keeping their factories running.



Many anarcho primitivists argue that this problem cannot be solved simply by replacing capitalism with another economic system. Even in a socialist state, industry would still need resources (from exploited parts of the world), factories, and largescale production to compete in the global economy. Because of this, industry would continue to damage nature and contribute to pollution.



From an anarcho primitivist perspective, industrialization goes against anarchist principles. Largescale industry depends on the exploitation of people, animals, reources, and land. It requires systems of control and hierarchy, making true freedom impossible.

Rewilding

One of the central ideas of anarcho primitivism is rewilding. Rewilding is the process of reconnecting with nature and relearning the skills that humans relied on before civilization.

This can include learning how to identify edible plants, make tools, track animals, build shelters, and survive without modern technology. Rewilding is not just about survival skills; it is also about changing our relationship with the natural world. Instead of seeing nature as a resource to be exploited, anarcho primitivists argue that we should see ourselves as part of it

Isn't Anarcho Primitivism Just Living in a Cave?

The short answer is, kind of.

However, this is not what most anarcho primitivists actually mean. There are many misconceptions about life before civilization. Anarcho primitivists tell that hunter gatherer societies often had more free time, lss stress, and stronger social bonds than people living in modern industrial societies.

Rather than imagining a world of constant struggle, anarcho primitivists point to evidence that many pre civilized societies lived healthy and fulfilling lives. They believe that modern problems, such as alienation, overwork, and environmental destruction, are products of civilization itself.

How Would Anarcho Primitivism Be Achieved?

Unlike some political ideologies, anarcho primitivism does not have a detailed blueprint for revolution. There is no step by step guide explaining exactly how society should be transformed.

Some anarcho primitivists believe that change begins on a small scale. Rather than taking over an entire country, they focus on building other ways of living and becoming none dependent on industrial society. Small communities can begin practicing mutual aid, rewilding, and self sufficiency long before civilization collapses or changes.

Organizing Without Civilization

People often assume that organizing an anarcho primitivist community would be difficult, but anarcho primitivists argue the opposite. Humans lived in small bands and tribes for the vast majority of our existence.

A community of five to twenty people can already provide support, friendship, and cooperation. Larger groups are also possible, but many anarcho primitivists find smaller communities allow people to know one another personally and reduce the chances of hierarchy developing.